Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH MFA OF CONSULAR CONVENTION AND

SMRKOVSKY MEMOIRS

REF: A) STATE 54214; B) STATE 48382

1. EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION OF GOC RATIFICATION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH NOVOTNY, DEPUTY HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT, MARCH 13. NOVOTNY EXPLAINED THAT PROCEDURE IS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER TO RECOMMEND RATIFICATION TO PRESIDENT; BUREAUCRATIC DETAILS THEN REQUIRE THREE-FOUR WEEKS BEFORE RATIFICATION ACTUALLY EFFECTED. (HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS ONLY A FORMALITY.) NOVOTNY PROMISED TO PROVIDE US WITH ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE TIMING, BUT STATED THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE,

MINISTER'S RECOMMENDATION HAD NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PRESIDENT.

2. EMBOFF USED OCCASION TO RAISE WITH NOVOTNY THE COMPLAINT LODGED BY BUZEK (REF B) ABOUT WASHINGTON POST PUBLICATION OF SMRKOVSKY MEMOIRS. STATING WE WERE NOT AWARE WHETHER BUZEK ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, EMBOFF RECALLED THAT ITALIAN, WEST GERMAN AND BRITISH PRESS HAD ALL PUBLISHED PRIOR TO POST, AND THAT POST HAD IN FACT EXCERPTED FROM SUNDAY TIMES. CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR COLLEAGUES, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT NO COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN LODGED WITH THE ITALIAN, WEST GERMAN OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRITISH GOVERNMENTS. THUS WE WERE SOMEWHAT BEMUSED BY THE

APPARENT SINGLING OUT OF THE US IN THIS CONNECTION. NOVOTNY SAID HE COULD STATE THAT, WHILE GOC OF COURSE CONCERNED OVER THIS MATTER, BUZEK HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED BY SIXTH DEPARTMENT TO REGISTER COMPLAINT. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT PRESS DEPARTMENT HAD SENT SUCH INSTRUCTIONS; HE DOUBTED IT, BUT PROMISED TO CHECK AND LET US KNOW.

PERRY

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